



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June 28, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Education Agency Principals, Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, and Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: School Improvement Streamlining and Enhancements

A core team of members from the Office of Education Improvement and Innovation, the Office of Field Services, the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability, and AdvancED, along with Intermediate School District (ISD) partners, have finalized the process of streamlining the completion of School Improvement Planning in Michigan. This recommendation, based on feedback from focus groups around the State, will reduce the burden on schools and help focus school improvement efforts to boost student achievement.

Starting in November 2012, all schools will use the enhanced AdvancED Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools (ASSIST) Platform for completion of their School Improvement reporting. ASSIST is a single, integrated, dynamic tool that combines data, process analysis, and improvement planning together in a user-friendly, point-and-click format.

Streamlining changes include the following:

- Plans for all Michigan schools are three to five years in length. While schools should revisit their School Improvement Plan every year and make appropriate changes based on data, the plan does not need to be redone annually.
- The revised School Data Profile/Analysis will allow recording the use of local assessments and state assessments, as well as district-used common assessments. Achievement data must be revisited annually.
- Perception data will be available in ASSIST in the form of Surveys and the Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT
NANCY DANHOF – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
RICHARD ZEILE – NASBE DELEGATE • KATHLEEN N. STRAUS
DANIEL VARNER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

In an effort to streamline reports, schools that complete Reform Plans for Turnaround and Transformation will find the integrated approach to School Improvement key in the reduction and duplication of information requested. The Goals & Plans section of the enhancement includes a Goal Builder feature that will greatly increase the ability of districts and schools to write Goals, Measureable Objectives, Strategies, and Activities that will support student achievement.

ASSIST Highlights:

- ASSIST provides a streamlined, yet comprehensive diagnostic framework that supports a much more efficient completion of the School Process Rubrics (SPR) 40 and 90, and the AdvancED Self Assessment. The content of these tools will not change, but the format for completion and submission will be streamlined. This change will significantly reduce the number of clicks required to complete the SPR 40 and 90, ultimately reducing the amount of time required to complete and submit the online document.
- ASSIST will provide additional reports to facilitate the use of diagnostic and survey results as part of the continuous school improvement process. One example is the standard level comparison graph available for the SPR 40 and 90. It provides an easy way to gauge strengths and areas for improvement. There will also be enhanced district and ISD level reporting to facilitate oversight and monitoring.
- ASSIST will help eliminate the need for schools to respond to the same question multiple times.

If you have further questions pertaining to ASSIST, please contact Diane Fleming at flemingd6@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance